



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JAN -3 2003

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

In re application of:
Douglas W. Walker

Serial No.: 09/668,831

Filed: September 22, 2000

For: CORDLESS SURGICAL HANDPIECE
WITH DISPOSABLE BATTERY AND
METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 31849.24

Customer No.: 27683

Group Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: Davis, Daniel J.

#9
Amended
D. Bryce
1/7/03

RESPONSE

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed September 27, 2002, please consider the following amendments and remarks:

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 21 and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:

(a) a handpiece having a tool supporting end, and a battery receiving end;

(b) a sterile package comprising a disposable battery pack having an attachment

end;

(c) one of the battery receiving end and attachment end having an alignment post with a plurality of electrical contacts arranged concentric thereto, and the other thereof having a central opening defining a longitudinal axis with a set of electrical contact elements concentric to that axis; and